GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2638
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Distribution of Food Subsidy
Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh;Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai;Tiwari Shri Manoj Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to revamp the current mechanism of food subsidy distribution through technical upgradation, public participation etc.; and
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the key changes proposed in the system to make it more effective and responsive to needs of the beneficiaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) & (b): Central Govt. has taken various steps to revamp the current mechanism of food subsidy distribution through technical upgradation & public participation. Central Govt. has asked States/UTs to opt for any of the two models of Direct Benefit Transfer i.e. Cash transfer of food subsidy into the bank account of beneficiaries or fair price shop (FPS) automation, which involves installation of Point of Sale (PoS) device at FPS, for authentication of beneficiaries and electronic capturing of transactions. The cash transfer of food subsidy is being implemented in 3 UTs on pilot basis namely Chandigarh, Puducherry w.e.f. 1-9-2015 and partially in Dadra & Nagar Haveli w.e.f. 1-3-2016. For remaining areas, States/UTs have been asked to expedite the pace of Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation. Out of 5,30,289 Fair Price Shops across the country, 1,25,104 FPSs have been automated so far.
A National Transparency Portal for TPDS has been developed which can be accessed at http://pdsportal.nic.in. Citizens may also access the Portals of the respective State/UT Food and Civil Supplies Department through the links provided on the National portal. As per the provisions of NFSA, every local authority or any authority or body as may be authorised by the State Govt. may conduct periodic social audits on the functioning of fair price shops & TPDS and cause to publicise its findings and take necessary action as may be prescribed by the State Govt.
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